

26th August 1925]

Medical.

Leper settlement in Tirumani.

11-15 a.m. * 465 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Leper Settlement at Tirumani is situated in close proximity to Chingleput municipality and several healthy villages around, besides being very near the road leading to places of pilgrimage such as Tirukalikunram, Mahabalipuram and Tiruporur;

(b) whether the municipality of Chingleput and the adjoining villagers were consulted before the location of the settlement at Tirumani was decided upon;

(c) whether it is a fact that the buildings have not been completed as yet, and that no compound walls have been raised round the colony; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that lepers are straying about the streets of Chingleput and some of them are cooking on the banks of Thimmaraja tank, which is one of the two sources of supply of drinking water to the inhabitants of the town?

A.—(a) The Chingleput Municipality is at a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the settlement. There are no villages within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of it. The main road to Tirukalikunram, Mahabalipuram and Tiruporur from Chingleput town does not run near the settlement. The northern boundary of the settlement is formed by a branch road between the Madurantakam road and the Tirukalikunram road which is little used.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The completed buildings were handed over to the Superintendent of the settlement at Tirumani on 2nd May 1925. An estimate for compound walls and wire fencing amounting to Rs. 14,000 has been approved by Government.

(d) Allegations of this kind have been made. Steps are being taken for the control of leper residents in the settlement.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—“With reference to clause (c), is it not a danger to public health to allow lepers to live in buildings having no compound walls around?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The question is being considered.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—“With reference to clause (b), the answer is in the negative. May I know the reason why the Chingleput Municipality was not consulted?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The Government thought it was not necessary to consult the municipality. The settlement is not in the municipal area.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—“Is it not in the interests of the municipality that it should be consulted?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Sir, as I said, it is outside the municipal area.”

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ May I enquire whether this question of a leper settlement is not a matter of importance and whether this House should not be consulted before embarking on a scheme of concentrating all the lepers in one settlement which will cost something like Rs. 5 lakhs? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I am afraid, Sir, my hon. Friend is not accurate in his statement, because the question was placed before this hon. House and discussed during the budget time.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ Have the Government taken the views of experts before they made up their minds to segregate the lepers in a place near Chingleput? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The answer is in the affirmative.”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ Is there any difference between the policy followed by Government at present and the policy followed by Government before the removal of the lepers to Chingleput? I understand what the Government has done is simply to transfer the Leper Asylum from Rayapuram to Chingleput.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ My question is whether the Chingleput Municipality and this Council should not have been consulted before embarking on a policy of segregating lepers at a particular asylum ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I am afraid, Sir, that my hon. Friend is not correct in his statement because this question was placed before the Council and it was discussed at the time of the budget.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ May I know if the Government took the advice of experts before they made up their minds to segregate all lepers in Chingleput? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The answer is in the affirmative.”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ May I know whether there is any difference between the policy followed by the Government now and the policy followed by the Government before the removal of the Asylum from Rayapuram to Chingleput? I understand that what the Government have done is simply to transfer the Leper Asylum from Rayapuram to Chingleput.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes; the Government have simply transferred the Asylum from one place to another.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ May I know if the Government stated that this colony is intended for 2,000 lepers from all parts of the Presidency? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ If funds are available, the Government can afford to provide accommodation for these lepers.”

Public Health.

Audit of accounts of the Union Mission Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Madanapalle.

* 466 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the reports on the audit of the accounts of the Union Mission Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Madanapalle, for the years 1921-22 and 1922-23, respectively, were received by the Government and whether final orders thereon were passed by the Government, and if so, when?